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NJMC Floodplain Management Plan Gains Federal Support

Federal Funding Now Possible To Relieve Residents

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission announced today that its Floodplain Management Plan has gained approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), making the NJMC eligible to pursue federal grant funds to address flooding in the Meadowlands District.

“This is appropriate recognition of the steps the Meadowlands community has taken as a whole to plan for the safety and security of our residents and our regional economy,” said NJMC Chairwoman Susan Bass Levin, also the state Department of Community Affairs Commissioner. “This could not have been done without the support and hard work of municipal and county leaders who enthusiastically joined the NJMC in thinking and acting regionally.”

The Meadowlands Floodplain Management Plan is the result of a year-long investigation of flood zones in the District, conducted with local officials and residents. It prioritizes flooding zones for relief by measuring the impact on first-floor residents and businesses, garage and basement inundation, frequency of flooding, constriction of major roads, and other variables.

This plan is one of a number of initiatives by the NJMC to take a proactive role in assisting municipalities with their effort to address flooding. This includes allocating funds to each of the 14 Meadowlands municipalities for the preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, as well as numerous grants for tide gate and pump station service and repairs throughout the area. The NJMC also established a municipal equipment pool that gives each town access to powerful equipment to locate and repair problems related to flooding in sewer lines.

“Flooding is a serious problem within our District, but it also has severe implications outside the NJMC’s borders,” said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio. “This is a major step in getting regional flooding solutions moving in a better direction. Coupled with our recent study of flood control structures in the District, a system to alert emergency officials of potential flooding, and examining the possibility of a regional storm water utility, this work shows the NJMC is taking its commitment to flood control very seriously.”

Another benefit of federal acceptance will be improvement of the District’s Community Rating Score, a voluntary incentive program through the National Flood Insurance Program that encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. This plan also allows the NJMC to seek additional insurance premium reductions for Meadowlands District property owners.

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